

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----042019 081303Z /53

P 081151Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1462
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10110

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE

1. SOVIET INFORMATION MEDIA PREDICTABLY HAVE ATTRIBUTED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE VISIT, STRESSING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF DETENTE. ALTHOUGH SKIMPY ON THE DETAILS OF THESE CONTRIBUTIONS, THE MEDIA HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VISIT MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS AND ALSO THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN IMPROVING THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE. WHILE NOTING THAT CLOSER SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS AND DETENTE BOTH HAVE THEIR ENEMIES IN THE WEST (AND IN THE FRG), MOSCOW AT THIS POINT WANTS TO STRESS THE POSITIVE AND TO CONVEY A SENSE OF HOPE THE BREZHNEV VISIT HAS SERVED THE CAUSE OF PEACE WELL. IN TERMS OF VOLUME OF COVERAGE, WE NOTE THAT FRONT PAGE OF PRAVDA OVER PAST THREE DAYS HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY GIVEN OVER TO THE VISIT, ITS SPEECHES AND ITS DOCUMENTS.

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2. TV COVERAGE WAS EQUALLY EXTENSIVE, FEATURING FULL COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW, ARRIVAL IN THE FRG, BREZHNEV'S TWO TOASTS AND ADDRESS TO THE WEST GERMAN PEOPLE, WHICH WAS AIRED HERE IN THE WEE HOURS OF SUNDAY, MAY 7, PLUS LIVE COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV'S SUNDAY AFTERNOON RETURN TO MOSCOW.

3. AS SEEN IN SOVIET TV COVERAGE:

--BREZHNEV'S ADDRESS TO THE WEST GERMAN PEOPLE CAME OFF FAIRLY WELL, BUT APPARENTLY REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE EDITING OF THE AUDIO; WE NOTED AT LEAST EIGHT INSTANCES IN WHICH BLOOPERS WERE CUT OUT OF THE TAPE. (NOTE FRG EMBASSY INFORMS US SPEECH WAS ACTUALLY VIDEOTAPED IN MOSCOW BEFORE BREZHNEV WENT TO BONN).

--BREZHNEV LOOKED A BIT TIRED, AND MOVED WITH SOME STIFFNESS, AS HE DESCENDED FROM HIS PLANE AND GREETED HIS POLITBURO COLLEAGUES AT VNUKOVO AIRPORT SUNDAY AFTERNOON; ALTHOUGH HIS MILITARY AIDE WAS AT BREZHNEV'S ELBOW, LEONID IL'ICH GOT DOWN THE STEPS FROM THE PLANE WITHOUT APPARENT DIFFICULTY. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW10110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780197-0386
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780583/aaaacsst.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d0dfb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2762793
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE
TAGS: PEPR, GE, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d0dfb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014